

# CCA Mentoring Program

## Introduction

The CCA Mentoring Program is designed to help new or returning members access the wealth of knowledge and experience of our seasoned collectors.

Collectors don't really need a club to collect. Especially with eBay and other venues, it's never been easier to buy items. But being in the CCA helps members get educated, make wise decisions and connect to other collectors.

Seasoned collectors have learned as they go, making mistakes along the way. Their knowledge increased little by little from interactions with other collectors, doing research and acquiring items.

The Mentoring Program connects newer members with that experience to help avoid the same mistakes. The goal is to help new members focus on what is fun without wasting their time or money.

Collecting comes with a lot of choices. It's easy to underestimate how vast casino collecting can be. The Program helps new members more clearly understand their options in a casual, friendly way. With someone available to ask questions at the start, the Club hopes to help new members feel welcome to a group of like-minded collectors.

The Mentoring Program helps new collectors with understanding:

- What types of collectibles are available
- How to determine the “value” of items, navigating through
  - Price guides
  - Sold auction prices
  - Dealer sales sites
- How to research areas of interest of both collecting and gaming history

- What resources the Club has to offer

It gives them a like-minded ally: a neutral, friendly person to be able to ask questions about casino chips and related collectibles.

### **The Program**

The Program is offered free of charge and is available to all active CCA members.

When collectors first sign up for their membership they are asked about their interests and if they want to connect with a Mentor. If they do, their information is passed to the Mentoring Program Director. The Director reaches out and through emails, phone calls or zooms confirms the new member's interests and needs.

(Please note: any members who missed out on the Mentoring Program when they first joined or simply want to connect with an experienced collector are encouraged to reach out directly to the Mentoring Program Director to sign up)

The Program has a “bench” of experienced collectors ready to help new members.

The Director then either acts as the Mentor or connects the new member to someone from the bench (an experienced collector with the same specialized interests or perhaps geographically closer).

Initial Stage: lasts for a period of 30 days. During this time, both parties will be encouraged to communicate back and forth through e-mails, calls or zooms. The mentee (new collector) will be free to ask any and all questions they may be interested in, and the mentor (experienced collector) will address the questions, giving advice and direction.

At the conclusion of the initial 30-day initial stage, the Mentoring Director will contact both parties to see if both wish to continue. If both parties are pleased with how things are going, they may choose to continue for an additional 11 months. This short initial period is particularly good for beginners who just need a little help and direction while getting started.

Either the mentee or the mentor can conclude the relationship at any time. This may need to be done because of unforeseen real life issues that may arise.

The program will continue for a maximum period of one year from the beginning of the initial active date.

## **Conclusion**

At its core the CCA is a social organization. As our [Constitution](#) says:

*The purposes of this organization are to promote a closer relationship and good will among the members of the Club, to encourage the study of gaming chips and tokens by the acquisition and study of all types of gaming exonumia, to assist new collectors and to encourage others in the study of gaming exonumia, to protect the integrity of the hobby and to maintain close liaison with other historical and numismatic associations.*

The CCA Mentoring Program helps bring new members ‘into the fold’ and leverages the experience we have been building for over 35 years!

If you are an experienced collector and would like to volunteer to be a Mentor please reach out!

Mentoring Program Director  
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